

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 329

By Helton-Haynes

A RESOLUTION to recognize East Ridge City Library on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in recognizing those venerable public institutions that are devoted to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such institution is East Ridge City Library, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge City Library finds its beginning in January 1972, when a library board was formed for the purpose of creating a library for the city of East Ridge; the members of this board were Clark Heath, Richard Durham, Stanley Chrnalogar, Thelma Renner, Eudine Britton, Mack Franklin, Mary Maynard, John Totten, R.J. Bruce, Virgil Christa, R.E. Blazier, and Paul Starnes, who was elected chairman; and

WHEREAS, under supervision of Commissioner Headrick Witt, the library board secured a \$6,000 loan, which was later paid off with a \$13,000 appropriation from the city; with those initial funds, shelving, books, office equipment, and supplies were purchased, and the old assembly room over Town Hall was converted to be the new East Ridge City Library; and

WHEREAS, an open house to introduce the library was held on December 3, 1972, and the library officially opened on March 1, 1973, with 1,550 books; that year, 645 membership cards were issued, and monthly circulation increased from 300 to 500; and

WHEREAS, in October 1985, the library moved to the back room of the Town Hall, which was on the ground floor and accommodated those who could not climb stairs; in 1990, the library moved into a 4,900-square-foot space in the new City Hall building; and

WHEREAS, currently, East Ridge City Library has approximately 8,625 users, 35,000 items in inventory, and an average monthly circulation of 2,826; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the library has been ably led by a number of distinguished librarians, including the first head librarian, Margie Baumgardner, assisted by Helen Edwards; Ann Pruett joined the library staff in 1977 and was head librarian until her retirement in 2001, and Susan Macrellis served as head librarian from 2001 until her passing in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dan Powers enjoyed a brief tenure as head librarian from 2016 to 2017, at which point Patty Weaver, who began working at the library part time in August 1996, became head librarian, in which capacity she continues to serve; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge City Library has served the citizens of East Ridge and Hamilton County for fifty years, and it is fitting that this exemplary public institution be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the librarians, staff, volunteers, and patrons of East Ridge City Library on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary and extend our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.